

GENERAL ORDERS, }

No. 36.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

*Washington, April 7, 1862.*

1..The General Hospitals are under the direction of the Surgeon General. Orders not involving expense of transportation may be given by him to transfer Medical Officers or Hospital Stewards from one General Hospital to another, as he may deem best for the service.

2..The Chief Medical Officer, to whom the charge of all the General Hospitals in a city may be entrusted, will cause certificates of disability to be made out for such men as, in his judgment, should be discharged. He will be responsible that the certificates are given for good cause, and that they are made in proper form, giving such medical description of the cases, with the degree of disability, as may enable the Pension Office to decide on any claim to pension which may be based upon them. The certificates of disability will be signed by the Chief Medical Officer, and forwarded by him to the Military Commander in the city, who shall have authority to order the discharge and dispose of the case according to existing regulations.

3..The final statements, and all the discharge papers, will be made out under the supervision of the Military Commander, and signed by him. Where the men are provided with their descriptive rolls, there will be no delay in discharging them after their certificates of disability are acted on. But if they have no descriptive rolls, application will be made to the Company Commander for the proper discharge papers, and the men may be maintained at the hospital a reasonable time while awaiting them, to avoid their being turned off without means of support. The discharge will, in all cases, bear the date when the papers are actually furnished the soldier. (See note.)

4..When a man is received in any hospital without his descriptive roll, the fact will be immediately reported by the Medical Officer in charge to the Military Commander, who will at once call on the Company Commander, in the name of the Secretary of War, promptly to furnish the military history of the man, and his clothing, money, and other accounts with the Government.

5..When too long a delay would arise in discharging the man because of the remote station of his company, application will be made

by the Medical Officer to the Adjutant General for such account of the man as his records will furnish. To this partial descriptive roll the Medical Officer will add the period for which pay is due the man since his entry into the hospital. The man will then be discharged, and receive the pay and traveling allowances thus shown to be due him, leaving the balance due him on account of clothing, retained pay, &c., for settlement in such manner as may hereafter be determined. (See notes.)

6..The Military Commander's duties, in reference to all troops and enlisted men who happen to come within the limits of his command, will be precisely those of a commanding officer of a military post.

7..It is made the duty of each Military Commander to correct, as far as may be in his power, the evils and irregularities arising from the peculiar state of the service at this time, by collecting stragglers and sending them forward to their proper stations, or discharging them on certificates of disability, if, on examination by the Chief Medical Officer, they be found unfit for the service.

8..The Military Commander in each city will have control of such guards as may be furnished to preserve discipline and good order at the several military hospitals. He will advise the Adjutant General of the Army what number of companies will be required for such guards. He will cause them to be properly posted, relieved, and instructed.

9..Whenever the Chief Medical Officer shall report a number of patients as fit to join their Regiments, the Military Commander will give the necessary orders to have them forwarded in good order and under suitable conduct.

10..The Chief Medical Officer in each city is authorized to employ as cooks, nurses, and attendants, any convalescent, wounded, or feeble men, who can perform such duties, instead of giving them discharges.

11..All officers and enlisted men of volunteers who are on parole not to serve against the rebels, will be considered on leave of absence, until notified of their exchange or discharge. They will immediately report their address to the Governors of their States, who will be duly informed from this office as to their exchange or discharge.

12..The duties of Military Commander, as above defined, will devolve, *in the District of Columbia*, on the Military Governor; *in the*

*city of Baltimore*, on the Commander of the Middle Department; *in the city of Philadelphia*, on Lieutenant Colonel H. Brooks, 2d Artillery, hereby assigned to that station; *in the city of New York*, and the military posts in that vicinity, on Brevet Brigadier General H. Brown, Colonel 5th United States Artillery.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant General*

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NOTE TO PAR. 3:

The first sentence of this paragraph is modified to read as follows:

The final statements, and all the discharge papers, will be made out under the supervision of the Military Commander, and signed by him when the soldier is not in a United States hospital, or under the charge of a United States surgeon. But if he is under a United States surgeon or in a United States hospital, the surgeon will, in either case, make out and sign the discharge and final statements, after the Military Commander has endorsed the authority to discharge the soldier upon the usual discharge and certificates of disability.

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*August 26, 1862.*

NOTE TO PAR. 5:

"In cases where too long a delay would arise in discharging a man because of the remote station of his company," and when no descriptive list, or partial descriptive list, can be obtained from this office, the men referred to will be discharged under this order, and an order given them on the Quartermaster's Department for transportation to their homes. This order will be signed by the same officer who signs the discharge. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish transportation to such men, upon the presentation of this order, requiring them also to show their discharge.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

## NOTE 2d TO PAR. 5:

The sentence "To this partial descriptive roll the Medical Officer will add the period for which pay is due the man since his entry into the hospital," will be understood to give him pay *on this final statement* from the muster *next preceding* his entry into the hospital until the date of his discharge.

## OFFICIAL:

*Assistant Adjutant General.*